

2009-2010 Grade 7 Science Course Syllabus

Fillmore Central School
104 West Main Street
Fillmore, NY 14735

Course Information

Instructor:

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General Information

Grade 7 science is taught as life science (or biology) at Fillmore Central School. The course itself is based on standards established by the New York State Education Department. Each topic we will cover during the upcoming year is included in the curriculum set forth by the state, and is also included on the grade 8 Science test battery that students take at the end of the 8th grade. There are several key areas within the curriculum, including (but not limited to) lab skills, scientific inquiry, cell biology, ecology, evolution, botany, zoology, and human biology. We will touch on each of these this year to varying degrees. The pace of education for the school year is relatively rapid because of the amount of material we must cover throughout the year.

Because of this, I ask that you do your best to stay current in assignments and lab experiences. Falling behind can be a very difficult thing to overcome due to the pacing of the course. In some ways, this course is more challenging than some higher level sciences because of the variety of material we must go through. Try to keep up!

This class meets once per day for approximately 44 minutes. During that time, students are asked to take notes in a class notebook (to be left in E240), and to answer a series of questions known as daily objectives. These notebooks will be checked each Friday, and points awarded for completeness. Each day is worth 5 points. Additional assignments and projects will be given during class and I expect that you use your agendas to record these and keep track of them. Each assignment will be mirrored on the class wiki, and I will do my best to keep your worksheets and labs uploaded so you can access them via the internet as well. You may also refer to the wiki for the course schedule. Feel free to use the internet to answer any questions you may have, but beware bad sites. Wikipedia is a lovely place, but its not always accurate, as you will find out.

Class Materials Required

Each student must bring the following (every day) to class.

A pen or pencil. No red ink please.

Your textbook

Your brain. This is fairly hard to actually leave places, so I don't worry too much about it..

In addition, each student may find it useful to have the following available to them:

Scissors that you are comfortable with (I find scissors disappear quickly in classrooms)

A 1 or 1.5" binder and loose leaf paper

A calculator

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Labs

There is no formal lab requirement for this class, but I do try to give at least 2 labs activities a week. Make sure that you pay attention to the due dates, please.

Exams/Quizzes

Each Friday is reserved for quiz day/notebook checks. Please do not act surprised that you have a quiz on a given Friday, because you will. These quizzes are required, and you must make them up if you miss a day.

Exams will be given 2 days after the end of each unit unless otherwise noted. Exams are also required for all students and will be made up if you are absent for any reason.

Projects

I like to give projects. Please make sure you note the due date for each project on the day it is assigned and do your best to get them to me on time. Late work can hurt your grade significantly as you will see. Each project will be different, so make sure you know what is expected of you for each project assigned.

Classroom Rules

There are a few rules you should be aware of if you want to have a good year with me. Mostly, they are common sense. Follow them and we will all get along nicely.

1. **Talking**: I expect there to be no talking during class unless I ask you to do so. Raise your hand if you have something to say, and wait until I call on you. It is fairly simple. Yelling out answers is unacceptable.
2. **Touching**: I expect that no student touches another student. I also expect that you keep your hands to yourself as far as my things are concerned. Teachers give up enough personal space to students. Don't handle everything on my desk. **My desk is my personal space. Don't stand by it, or sit behind it, without my EXPRESS PERMISSION.** If you do not know what this means, then you should not be near my desk.
3. **Lateness**: Unacceptable. I will record your attendance at the start of every period. Be there before I start recording, or you will be marked late. 3 late appearances earns you a discipline report to the office. Being late is rude. Don't do it.
4. **Respect**: More than any other thing, I demand respect from you. Respect each other and me and we will get along fine. This extends to all the things in my room as well.
5. **Hall Passes**: There is one hall pass and a signout sheet. Use them. Sign out when you leave, and back in when you return. Abuse this and lose the privilege to go out.
6. **Cell Phones**: **You already know the rule on these. Don't bring them in here. They are banned in my room and I will take them when I see them. 1st offense. I consider it rude to send a text message while I or anyone else is talking, and find it insulting that you are not interested in what I am saying.**
7. **iPods and Other Music Players**: iPods and other personal music players are only allowed at certain times in my room. If I say you can use one, then you may. Otherwise, you will lose it if I see it. I will allow them during quiet times. Do not ask me if you can listen in one ear while I teach. You cannot. It is rude.

Grading Policy

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I firmly believe that work not handed in does not benefit the student in any way, so this policy has been carefully designed to provide maximum reward for doing the homework, even if it is egregiously late (please try not to take advantage of this. I reserve the right to change this policy on an individual basis if a pattern develops). The policy goes like this:

Exams
25%
HW/Projects
20%
Notebooks
20%
Labs/Activities
20%
Class Participation
15%

Late work will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late, to a maximum of 50%. **You can only receive the 50% for work handed in that is complete and accurate** (in other words, the maximum you can get is 50% for perfect work).

Please read this through with your parents and make sure you understand what it means for you. If you have questions, ask me, and I will clarify for you. The goal here is to get you through the school year with a sound science education, but also to do it while enjoying ourselves. If we work together to that end, I think we will have an excellent year. I know I am committed to it. The decision rests with you.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____